

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-9 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error. The claim or any feature thereof has not been narrowed.

Claims 1 and 9 have been rejected as being anticipated by the European patent application EP 1 064 847 A1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102. We respectfully traverse on the following grounds.

The European patent application was published on March 1, 2001. Its priority application (BE 9900455) was published by the Belgian Patent Office on March 6, 2001.

The instant application claims the priority, under 35 U.S.C. § 119, of Austrian patent application A 2141/2000, filed December 22, 2000. The Austrian priority application, therefore, predates the first publication date of the European patent application and, accordingly, the European application is not available as a prior art reference.

A certified priority document was filed in the Patent Office on November 4, 2003 and should be of record. Enclosed herewith, in order to perfect the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, is a certified translation of the priority application.

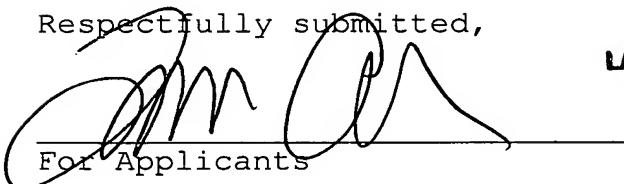
In view of the foregoing, the rejection of claims 1 and 9 is moot. It is appreciatively noted that claims 2-8 have been indicated as being allowable. In light of the foregoing statements, it is not necessary to limit the claims to any of the features of the dependent claims.

Reconsideration and the allowance of the claims are solicited.

Petition for extension is herewith made. The extension fee for response within a period of one month pursuant to Section 1.136(a) in the amount of \$110.00 in accordance with Section 1.17 is enclosed herewith.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicants

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